

WE CLAIM:

1. A multi-information-character surveillance imaging system comprising  
an optical, daytime, color video imager having an imaging axis,  
an optical, nighttime, light-intensified, black-and-white video imager having an  
5 imaging axis,  
a thermal imager having an imaging axis, and  
housing structure closely containing each of said imagers as an assembly in  
respective, cooperative, relative positions and conditions wherein they share a  
substantially common point of view, with said three imaging axes oriented whereby they  
10 are substantially bore-sight aligned at infinity.
2. The system of claim 1 which further includes computer-controllable,  
motor-actuable drive structure operatively and drivingly connected to said housing  
structure and contained imager assembly for producing selective and controlled  
15 surveillance-motion tracking via generally horizontal panning and general vertical tilting  
motions.

3. A multi-information-character surveillance imaging method comprising  
furnishing plural different scene-imaging instrumentalities, including (a) an  
optical, daytime, color video imager, (b) an optical, nighttime, light-intensified, black-  
5 and-white video imager, and (c) a thermal imager, with each of these imagers possessing  
a respective imaging axis,

assembling such imagers in a closely formed arrangement within a common,  
containing housing structure in a manner whereby the imagers share a substantially  
common point of view, with their respective imaging axes substantially bore-sight  
10 aligned at infinity, and

selectively, including plurally and simultaneously, using these different imagers  
in such assembly to view a chosen scene.

4. The method of claim 3 which further comprises preparing the housing-  
15 structure-contained imager assembly for computer-controllable, motor-driven  
surveillance-tracking motions, including generally horizontal panning and generally  
vertical tilting motions, and as part of said preparing, drivingly connecting the thus-  
contained imager assembly operatively to a user-operable computer.